THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council

3029. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has set up a Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC); and

(b) if so, what is the justification of different complementary infrastructures such as Patents Service of National Informatics Centre, Indian Patents Office and National network like NICNET, INDONET, ERNET?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a follow up of Technology Policy Statement (TPS) and the recommendations of Technology Policy Implementation Committee (TPIC), the Government has set up a Technology Information, Forecasting and Assesment Council (TIFAC). Its main objective is to facilitate forecasting and assessment of the indiganous and foreign technology and build up appropriate information system for the same. Since TIFAC is meant to operate on a decentralised basis, with TIFAC-like activities carried out in different sectors and appropriate agencies, for areas in which they are best equipped for this. As part of its information system activities. a nationally accessible decentralised technology information system is being experimented by TIFAC. This system is planned so as to build on the existing strengths of various national agencies. Information on patents is a distinct service which is proposed to be met by the patent service of National Information Centre and Indian Patent Office. Networks like INDONET, NICNET and ERNET cater, as communication networks, for meeting various other categories of overall information needs of the country e.g. economic, financial and industrial data etc.

International Conference on Machine translation

3030. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NISTADS is organising an international conference on Machine Translation; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether programme for Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) launched by the Department of Electronics would be discussed in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) NISTADS is planning to organise a Regional Workshop on Machine Translation in collaboration with UNESCO in February, 1991. TDIL programme is also planned to be discussed in the Conference.

Encouragement to Meritorious Scientists

3031. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Science and Technology has a scheme for the meritorious scientists to improve work efficiency, performance quality and implement official language policy;